

A night photograph of the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol dome. A large firework is exploding in the sky, creating a dense pattern of orange and blue light trails. The Washington Monument is visible on the left, and the U.S. Capitol dome is on the right. The text is overlaid on the image.

# *An Engineer in Washington... Involvement in the Policy Game*

*103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Purdue Road School  
Theresa E. Harrison, P.E., ENV SP, M. ASCE  
March 8, 2017*



# Why Get Involved in the Policy Game?

- Government **OF** the people, **FOR** the people and **BY** the people...
- Laws & legislation affect the engineer's work, daily
- Legislators need data, facts, input
- Industry: better relations = better assist clients = more business
- Government: better relations and connections = better service for citizens
- Understanding of our government
- Assistance to local, state, and federal governments
- Voice in legislation and regulations
- Informed citizenry



# Where to Get Involved in the Policy Game

- Local Government
  - Participate in local community government meetings
  - Planning Commission
  - Board of Public Works
  - Parks Board
  - Building, Utilities Boards and Commissions
  - City or Township Council
  - County Council
  - Task Forces
  - Develop relationships with Mayor, Council, Public Works Director, other agency staff



# Where to Get Involved in the Policy Game (cont'd.)

- State Government
  - Commissions
  - Task Forces
  - State Representative and State Senator relationships
  - ASCE Government Relations
- National Government
  - Commissions
  - Task Forces
  - Representative and Senator relationships
  - ASCE Government Relations



# How to Get Involved in the Policy Game

- Get educated about issues and vote
- Reach out to elected officials
  - Telephone
  - E-mail
  - Written letter
  - In person visit (home state, Washington, D.C.)
- Provide valuable information
  - Workplace
  - Professional society
- Invite elected/government agency official to speak at a meeting
- Volunteer for opportunities to contribute and serve
- Run for elected office



# Professional Advocacy – Lobbying?

- Professional organizations - Doctors, Teachers, Pilots, etc.
  - Input and guidance to legislative body
  - Organizational guidelines and policies
  - Conformance to Codes of Ethics
  - Sound institutional principles, not politics



# ASCE | GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- ASCE Key Contact Program
- Key Contact briefing conference calls
- Click & Connect with Congress
- Monitor legislation in your home state
- Back home visits
- Legislative fly-in
- Organize a Section or Branch Government Relations Committee
- State drive-ins and legislative days



[www.asce.org/advocacy\\_programs](http://www.asce.org/advocacy_programs)

# ASCE Initiatives

- Infrastructure
  - 2017 US Infrastructure Report Card – March 9 release
  - Failure to Act Reports
  - Infrastructure Policy Reports
  - State and Regional Report Cards
- Raise the Bar
  - Raise the Bar Articles & Publications
- Sustainability
  - ENVISION
  - ASCE Grand Challenge

[www.ascegrandchallenge.com](http://www.ascegrandchallenge.com)





# ASCE Advocacy

- ASCE Public Policy Statements

[www.asce.org/public\\_policy\\_statements/](http://www.asce.org/public_policy_statements/)

- Priority Issues

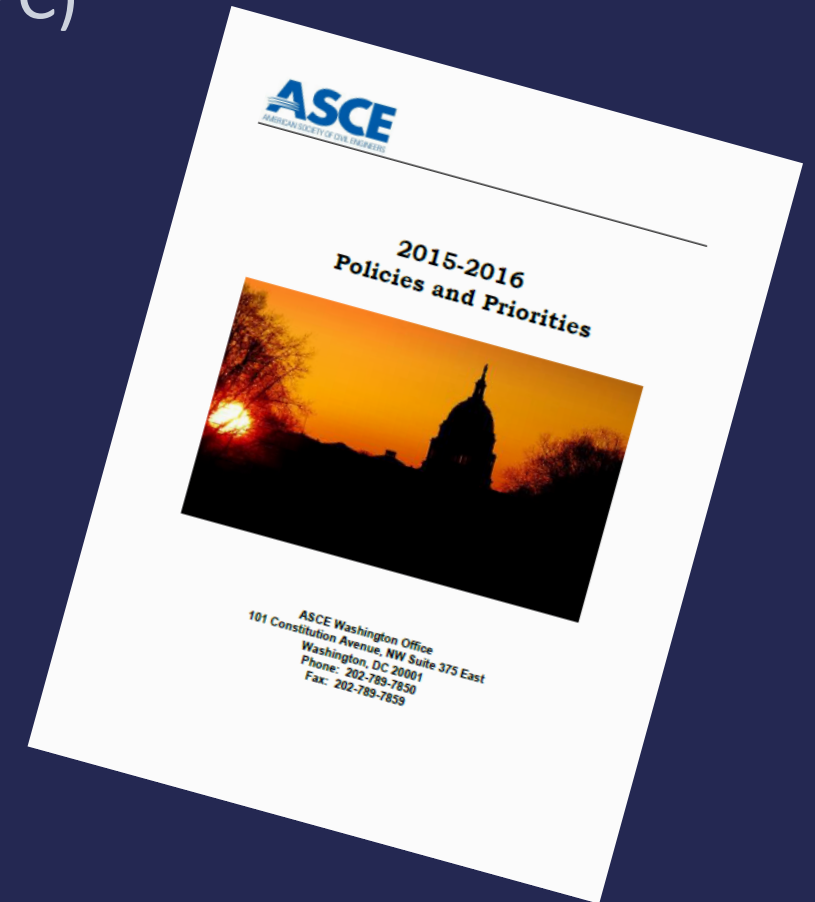
- Federal Priority Issues
- State Priority Issues

[www.asce.org/priority\\_issues/](http://www.asce.org/priority_issues/)



# Public Policy Committee (PPC)

- Infrastructure & Research Policy Committee (IRPC)
  - Subcommittee of PPC
  - 167 policies
  - 3 year review rotation
  - Input from committees
  - Valid? Review, Edit, Re-write
  - Send to Board for review and approval



# Example Policies

- Title & number
- Policy
- Issue
- Rationale

## INFRASTRUCTURE

[Policy Statement 131 - Growth and Development](#)

[Policy Statement 299 - Infrastructure Investment Policy](#)

[Policy Statement 404 - Endorsement of Infrastructure Projects](#)

[Policy Statement 418 - The Role of the Civil Engineer in Sustainable Development](#)

[Policy Statement 427 - Regulatory Process for Infrastructure Development](#)

[Policy Statement 451 - Life-Cycle Cost Analysis](#)

[Policy Statement 452 - Investing In America's Schools](#)

[Policy Statement 453 - Federal Capital Budgeting](#)

[Policy Statement 493 - Infrastructure Resilience Research](#)

[Policy Statement 500 - Resilient Infrastructure](#)

[Policy Statement 503 - Parks and Recreation Infrastructure](#)

[Policy Statement 518 - Unified Definitions for Critical Infrastructure Resilience](#)

[Policy Statement 526 - Public Private Partnerships](#)

[Policy Statement 528 - High-Performance Buildings](#)

[Policy Statement 532 - National Infrastructure Bank](#)

[Policy Statement 541- Post-Disaster Reconstruction of Infrastructure](#)

[Policy Statement 543- Performance-Based Ownership of Infrastructure](#)



# ASCE Advocacy Tools & Training

- PR University
- GR University
- State Public Affairs Grant Program (SPAG)
- ASCE Congressional Engineering Fellow (suspended at this time)

[www.asce.org/advocacy/](http://www.asce.org/advocacy/)

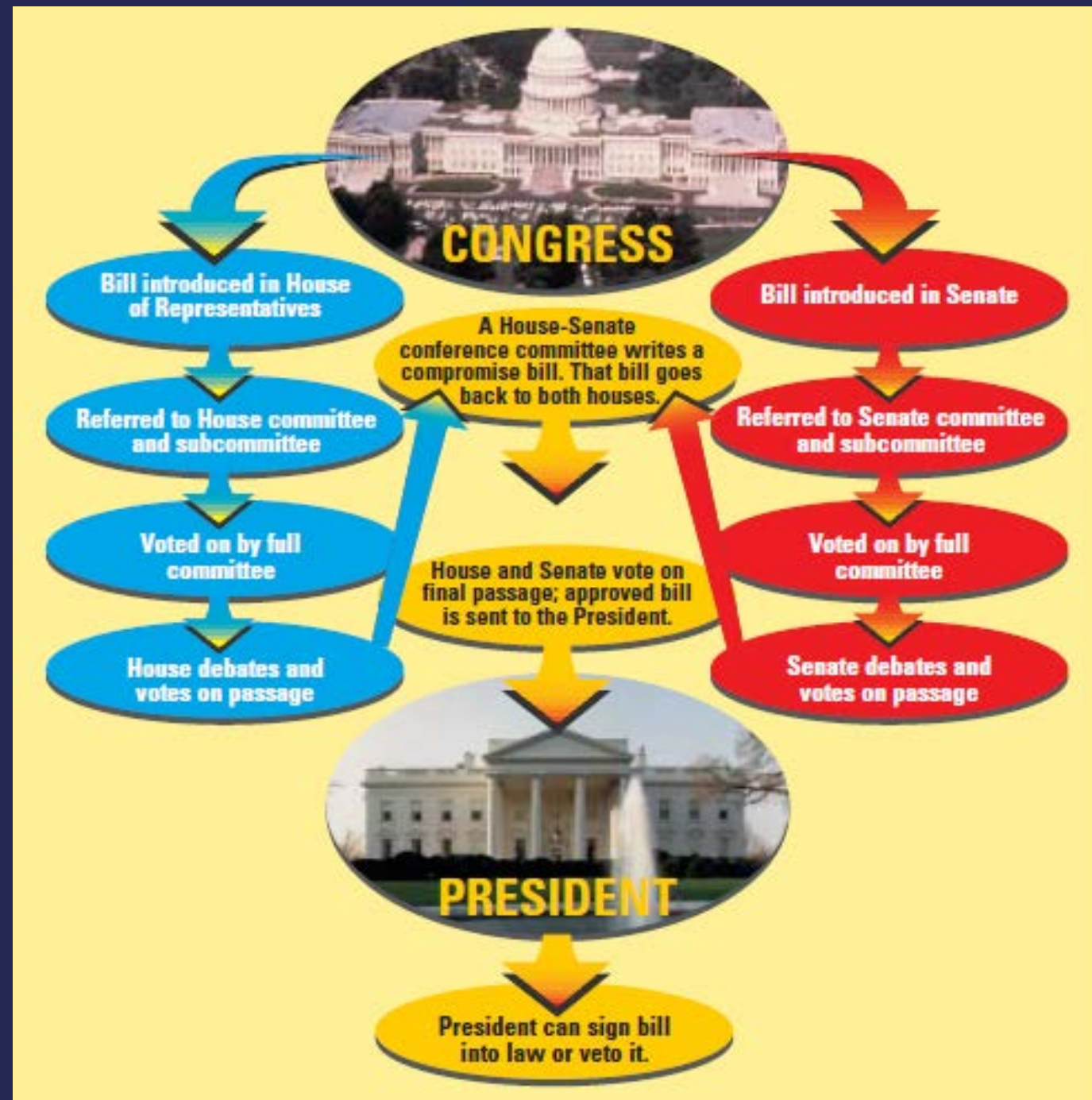


# ASCE Congressional Engineering Fellow

- One year on Capitol Hill
- Two weeks of training
  - Congressional Research Service
  - NGOs, Governmental Agencies
  - Senators & Representatives
- Congressional reception
- Prepare for interviews
  - Committees
  - Congressional offices
- Offers.... acceptance



# How a Bill Becomes Law





# Typical Senate Office

- Chief of Staff
- Legislative Director
- Legislative Assistants
- Media & Press Team
- Legislative Correspondents
- Legislative Fellows
- Interns



# A Day in the Life of a Congressional Fellow

- Welcome to the Senator's office
  - Computer + phone = set to go!
  - Constituent Meetings
  - Briefings
  - Hearings
  - Receptions
  - Special events



# Daily Goings On

- Mostly staff meeting with constituents and lobbyists
- Pop-ins in with Senator
- Communication with Region Offices, State Agencies, MPOs, etc.
- Daily media mention reports
- Preparations for press conferences, colloquies, floor action, votes
- Staff time with Schumer





# Briefing & Hearings

- Briefing
  - Informational
  - Experts in field or industry
  - Heavy duty lobbying
- Hearing
  - Like a court hearing
  - Something went wrong, finding fault



# Receptions & Other Special Events

- Lobbyist events
- States' events
- Local government organizations events
- Embassy events
- Dignitaries and celebrities (Dalai Lama, Bill Nye, Capt. Sullenberger)
- State of the Union Address
- Military Bands Concerts
- Christmas Tree Lighting







**A**  
**CAPITOL FOURTH**  
*America's National Independence Day Celebration*



**JULY 4, 2014 8/7C**  
**ON THE WEST LAWN OF THE U.S. CAPITOL**

STARRING: FRANKIE VALLI, JOHN WILLIAMS, PATI LABELLE, MICHAEL MCDONALD, JORDAN SPARKS, SARA EVANS  
HOSTED BY TOM BERGERON  
THE MUPPETS, KENDALL SCHMIDT, KELL O'HARA AND THE CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

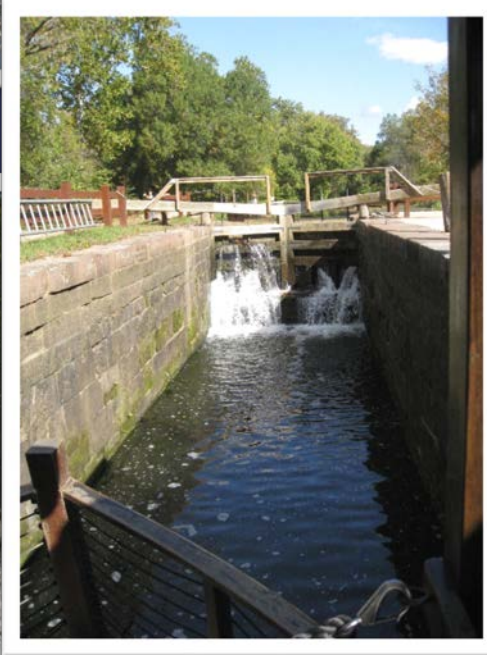
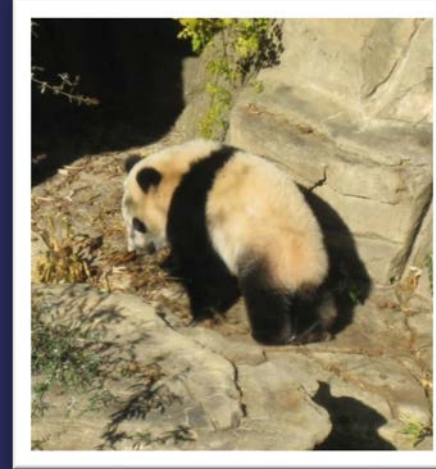
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